

In The Swim

Information for commercial pool operators and owners



CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Spring 2019

Quick facts and observations

- ◇ Permits are not transferable. If you recently purchased a recreational water facility, the health department must be notified.
- ◇ Remodels, including pool structures, barriers and clubhouses, must go through health department plan review.
- ◇ Filter maintenance includes periodically replacing your sand media and cartridges. Typically, sand should be changed every three to five years.
- ◇ Some of the reagents used for daily testing must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Refer to the Safety Data Sheets for proper disposal requirements.
- ◇ House Bill 2822 is now in effect! Misrepresenting a pet as a service animal in Washington is a civil infraction that carries a fine of up to \$500. Pets are not allowed in a public pool or on the pool deck. Service animals are permitted however not allowed in the pool or spa water.

Swim diapers: Do they work?

Recreational water illness: Recreational water illnesses are illnesses that occur due to exposure to germs and chemicals in the water we swim in. This includes both treated water and natural recreational water locations. Many recreational water illnesses are associated with fecal contamination from ill swimmers.

Swim diapers and swim pants: According to the CDC, swim diapers and swim pants may give a false sense of security to parents and facility owners. While they may hold solid feces, they are not leak proof. Recreational water illnesses, such as *Cryptosporidium*, may still leak into the water.

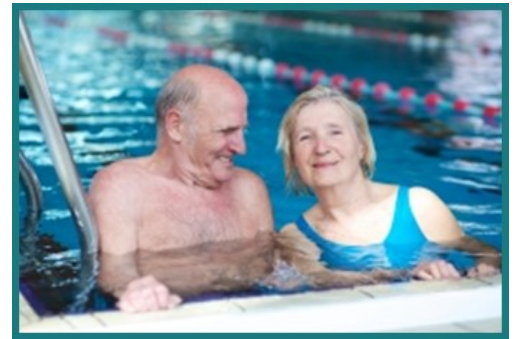
Protect your facility users by taking these simple steps to reduce recreational water illness:

- ◇ Educate your bathers on the efficacy of swim diapers and risks of fecal contaminations.
- ◇ Have clearly stated policies about not swimming when ill with diarrhea and the use of swim diapers with tight fitting swim pants.
- ◇ Provide a diaper changing station in the closest restroom.
- ◇ Have your Pool Rules signs indicate the nearest bathroom with a diaper changing station.
- ◇ Promote frequent bathroom breaks.



Code enforcement decision tree

In 2018, the recreational water safety team worked to map out enforcement protocol. The guide outlines what code violations are considered imminent health hazards that immediately result in a closure versus other critical and non-critical code violations. Note that repeating non-critical violations, such as log keeping and missing weir doors, may now result in closures and fines if not corrected. The best way to avoid closures and fees is to know the rules outlined in WAC 246-260 and make corrections as necessary. Please contact us at DLCntyHealthWaterRec@clark.wa.gov for more information.



Is your pool ready for swim season?

Barrier checklist

- ◇ Are there any gaps that a 4-inch ball could fit through?
- ◇ Do all the gates and doors self-close and self-latch?
- ◇ If the fence mesh exceeds 1.25 inches, are slats installed?
- ◇ Are there any stepping points that may allow unauthorized access?
- ◇ Are the handles for each entrance at 60 inches or secured with a keyed entry?

Pool deck checklist

- ◇ Are there any trip hazards on the deck?
- ◇ Is the deck furniture organized to allow room for emergencies?
- ◇ Are your signs readable, filled in and current for your facility's rules?
- ◇ Are the handrails secured?
- ◇ Are there any rough or abrasive areas that need to be addressed?

Emergency equipment

- ◇ Does your emergency phone dial out?
- ◇ Pool: Is your double crook hook on a 12-foot solid pole and is your life ring attached to a rope?
- ◇ Spa: Does your emergency shutoff make an audible sound while turning off the main drain and jet pumps?
- ◇ If lifeguarded: Is the lifeguard buoy and backboard in good repair?

Your recreational water team is here to help!

Your environmental health specialists are here to be your resource! Contact us for any code- or inspection-related questions.

Email: DICntyHealthWaterRec@clark.wa.gov

Phone: 564.397.8428

We look forward to working with you!

Visit our website

Visit www.clark.wa.gov/public-health or scan the QR code below to find helpful resources including:

- Operation guidelines
- Printable logs for your daily/weekly tests
- Inspection results
- Injury report forms
- Change of ownership form
- Links to resources such as CPO classes and CDC websites



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office

Voice 564.397.2322
Fax 564.397.6165

Relay 711 or 800.833.6388
Email ADA@clark.wa.gov